(4) The lands assigned might be held free of tax for the first three years, as in the case of lands assigned under the Rules for the sale of lands for tea cultivation.

(5) The system of assigning lands without auction might be tried for a period of 5 or 7 years to begin with, the concessions being revised after that period.

He said that all the best available lands in the Peermade taluk had already been registered and that only small bits of land, here and there, unfit for tea cultivation, remained. He also stated that more than 50 per cent. of the lands auctioned under the Puduval Rules were not bid for, as bidders were not forthcoming. This caused great loss to the Government in the shape of cost of survey and travelling allowances, which could have been avoided if the lands had been assigned to the applicants without auction.

Another point referred to by the Member was the treatment of Cardamom lands in the Cardamom Hills Reserve. He suggested that such lands might either be registered or leased out as in the case of the lands in the Nagarampara Reserve or Kanni Elam tract.

In conclusion, the Member referred to the inconvenience caused to the people of Peermade in going to Devicolam in connection with the preferring of appeals. To remove this inconvenience, he suggested that either the Commissioner, Devicolam might be asked to go to Peermade to hear appeals or that his Assistant at Peermade might be authorised to do so.

*President's reply.*—You have referred to three points in your speech. Your first request is that the minimum rate of *tharavila* under the Puduval Rules for dry lands, *viz.*, Rs. 10 per acre, should be reduced so far as the Peermade taluk is concerned. The revised Puduval Rules in which the above minimum was fixed were issued only recently. If, after some experience of the working of these Rules, it is found that the rate is high, Government will consider the question of lessening the same.

As regards the hearing of appeals in revenue cases at Peermade, the Land Revenue Commissioner assures me that it has been the practice for the Devicolam Commissioner to hear such appeals at Peermade. If that practice has been discontinued, the Devicolam Commissioner will be asked to revive it.

In regard to the high rates of *taravila* much in excess of the minimum rates fixed in individual cases by Revenue Officers, the rules provide for appeals being preferred to the Peishkars, the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Dewan, and the Land Revene Commissioner informs me that a large number of appeals have been so preferred, and that in all cases requiring relief, relief is being afforded.

(2) FOREST.

**19. Damage done by wild elephants to tea estates.**

*Mr. A. J. Wright* (Member, Kannan Devan Hills Planters' Association) spoke on the hardships caused to the Planters by the incursions of wild elephants into the tea estates. He stated that, in spite of the representations made at the several sessions of the Assembly, their grievances in this matter still remained unredressed. Although the Forest Regulation, IX of 1097, allowed the killing and wounding of wild elephants in defence of person and property, provided that more harm was not caused to the animals than was necessary in the circumstances of the case, yet the provision did not remedy the evil to any great extent, as it had application only to cases of emergency, but not to cases of continued damages. He cited instances of such continued damages to the Pallivasal Estate, belonging to the Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading Company, where, during the past two years, cooly lines and tea plants to the value of Rs. 5,700 had been destroyed by wild elephants. With a view to remove the existing defects and to minimise such damages, the Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to issue at an early date the rules contemplated under Section 46 of the Regulation and that the planters might also be given permits allowing the killing and wounding of wild elephants in cases of continued damages. The Member in conclusion stated that such rules and permits would only conduce to the protection of forest interests by minimising the destruction of animals and that they would only be resorted to after all other possible protective measures had been exhausted.

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*President's reply.*—You have already pointed out the provisions contained in the Forest Regulation which govern the matter. You may rest assured that it is not the intention of the Government to handicap the planters in the matter of the protection of their person and property. The subject is one which does not easily admit of very definite instructions being issued applicable to all cases. All that the Government are particular about is that wanton injury or wanton destruction shall not be caused to elephants. You have made pointed reference to the rules. At the same time, when the injury amounts to killing, the Government's policy which underlies the legislation on the subject requires that the burden of proving that there are proper circumstances which justified or would justify the causing of death is on the person who causes the death of the animal. In all cases where a plea of self-defence is raised it is very difficult to gauge the situation and to correctly find out the proper circumstances and judge of the acts of persons whose lives and property are threatened. You may rest assured that a liberal interpretation will be put on the rules. So far as the rules are concerned, I understand that a set of rules has been drawn up by the Conservator and that they have been referred to the Sirkar Vakil. He has not yet sent in his reply. He will be asked to expedite the same.

### (3) Excise.

**20. Free import of Java brandy into Travancore, as also whisky, gin and beer from other countries, and permission to vend the products of Indian breweries.**

*Mr. Chandi Mani* (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) said that the import of Java products, consisting of brandy, whisky and gin, had been restricted from 1095 onwards on its being found that the arrack supply contractors were unable to compete successfully with Java brandy. The Member mentioned that there was an increasing demand for the above varieties of Java liquor, as the stock of foreign liquor with the merchants was very low. In the estates of the Peermade taluk where epidemics broke out every year, the cooly classes were accustomed to take the cheaper varieties of liquor imported from Java for medicinal purposes.

The Member also requested the permission of the Government for the vend of beer and other products of the Indian breweries to the advantage of the merchants and the public alike, as the price of the liquor imported from foreign countries was very high.

*President's reply.*—Your suggestion seems to go, to a great extent, against the temperance movement which has got such good hold on the people, and I regret that the proposal is not one which can be approved of by the Government.

## III. PROTECTION—LEGISLATION, CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JUSTICE.

**21. Legislation for the prohibition of cow slaughter.**

*Mr. R. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar* (Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhitturai) began by saying that the existence of cows was important both for the supply of milk and for the development of agriculture, and that the importance of milk as an article of diet was recognised both by the vegetarian and non-vegetarian. The vitality of the average Indian was very low when compared with that of his brother in Europe or America. Though this comparatively low vitality was not due entirely to the absence of a sufficient quantity of pure milk, it could not be denied that the supply of unadulterated milk would go a long way to build up a healthy physique. On account of the diminishing quantity of pure cow's milk, in towns specially, there was going on a process of adulteration which led to several diseases like tuberculosis. Another evil was that the price of this apology for pure milk was going up. Such a state of affairs was the result of the annual diminution of milch cows which were being slaughtered for beef. Unlike in Europe, America or elsewhere, cattle in India were bred only for milk supply and not for beef. It was, therefore, all the more necessary that cows—milch cows especially—should be protected from slaughter by legislation. Agriculture also suffered on account of the indiscriminate killing of cattle. Bulls and other head of cattle were required for ploughing and other agricultural operations, and their gradual decrease in numbers would affect the interests of agriculture, as it had done already; for, when cattle decreased, there was naturally a decline in the quantity of farm-yard manure produced, so necessary for cultivation of all kinds. It was on these and other important grounds that the Economic

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